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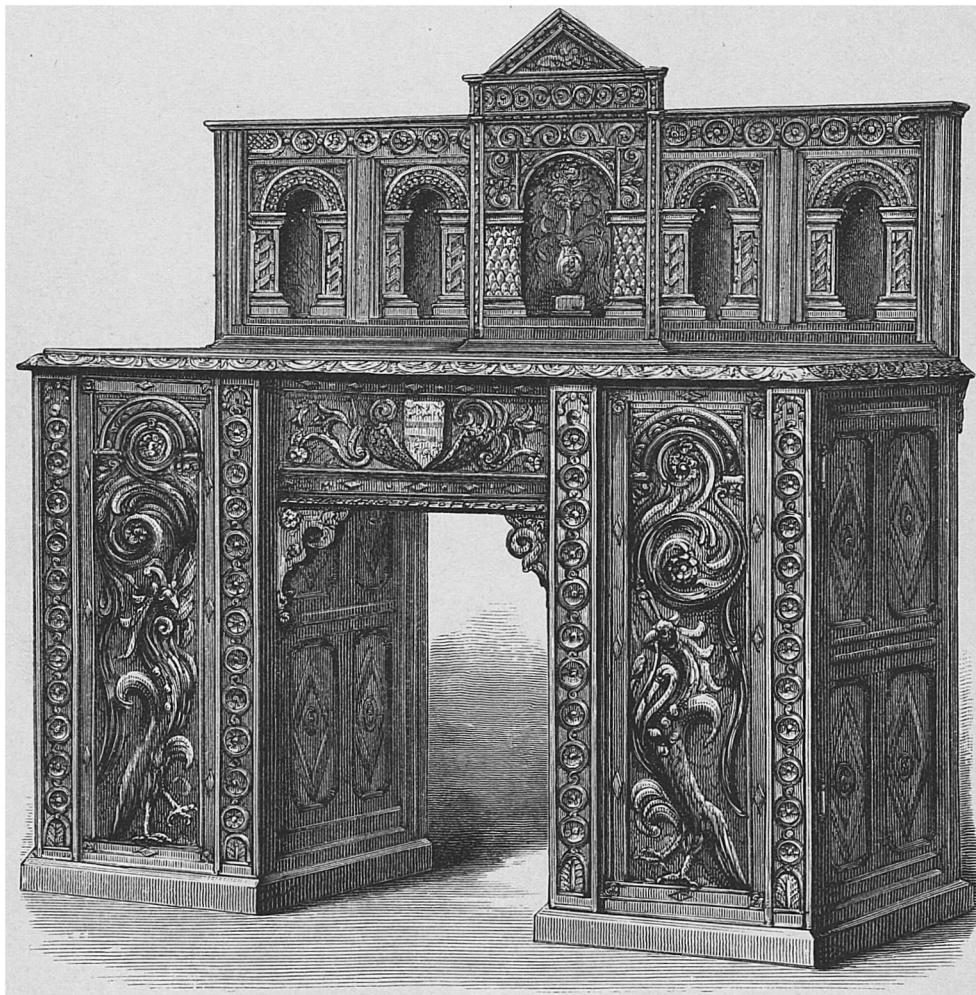
“WASHINGTON” CABINET.

THE cabinet, of which we present an engraving, is a well-marked specimen of English sixteenth-century carving and inlaying, at present in the possession of the owner, George C. Douglas, Esq., surgeon, Sulgrave, Northamptonshire, England. It is composed of dark oak, is massive and well-proportioned, and the carving and inlaying upon it are reported to be in the best style of the Art of that period. The dimensions of the sideboard, or cabinet, are as follows: height at centre or back, six feet; length, six feet two inches; height of front, three feet seven and one-half inches; depth from front to back, two feet three inches.

But the main interest of the work centres in the fact that it is a

composite article formed from different portions of pieces of furniture, which, in their entirety, formerly graced the Washington Manor-House at Sulgrave, and were the property of Lawrence Washington, the great-great-grandfather of General Washington.

The Sulgrave Washingtons had been known to this neighbourhood from a period early in the reign of Henry VIII., when Lawrence Washington settled at Northampton, and eventually became mayor of the town. On the dissolution of the monasteries, and the division of the church property in England, the manor and lands of Sulgrave, hitherto the property of the monastery of St. Andrews at Northampton, fell to his lot by deed of gift from



“Washington” Cabinet.

Henry VIII., in 1539, and the Washington family removed thither, making the manor-house their residence. There was ever a fatality supposed to cling to the holding of alienated church property, and this seemed to attach itself to the Washingtons after their removal to Sulgrave, for their fortunes gradually failed until, in 1606, another Lawrence Washington, grandson of the original grantee, was forced to leave the manor-house with his family, impoverished and broken, and settle in a small house at Brington.

When the Washingtons left Sulgrave their effects were sold, and much of their furniture was scattered through the village, where it has remained ever since. At length, Mr. Douglas—the gentleman above mentioned, and who appears to have devoted himself with praiseworthy assiduity to the perpetuation of the memory of the Washington name—made it his province to collect a number of such articles from the neighbours, and had construct-

ed from them the present ‘Washington Cabinet,’ as a souvenir and memorial of the family residence in Sulgrave.

Thus the doors of the piece belonged to an old cabinet in the manor-house, the centre of the back to an antique chair, the sides to a chest—the whole having indisputably formed part of the furniture of the manor-house. Between the doors is a large drawer, upon the centre of which is a shield bearing the three mullets and two stripes of the Washington arms, carved in oak taken from the framework of the ancient manor-house. The back of the cabinet is richly carved, and in its centre is a specimen of English inlaying of the sixteenth century. On either side of this are two carved arches forming the framework for small mirrors.

It will thus be seen that this work is comprehensive and felicitous in its elements of interest—a quite unique souvenir, in fact, in the attributes of age, association, and artistic merit.